(Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interests of contract labour and construction workers respectively. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. These Acts and the rules made thereunder also provide for the regulation of conditions of work, payment of wages and other amenities relating to welfare, health and safety of these workers. Provisions of these Acts are considered adequate for meeting all bonafide concerns in respect of these workers. However, in the light of the experience gathered in the administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the judgements of various courts, a review of this Act, with a view to restructure and bring it in tune with the changing times, has been undertaken.

Sanctioned posts of Judges in Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals

585. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases lying pending with Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals as on date;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts of Judges for these Courts;

(c) whether all these posts have been filled up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these posts are likely to be filled to dispose of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending with various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is annexed. *(See* below)

(b) to (e) There a/e 17 sanctioned posts of Presiding Officer

(Judges) for these CGIT-cum-Labour Courts. At present 5 posts of Presiding Officers *are* laying vacant. These are at. the following places:

(a) Asansol; (b) Mumbai No. I and II (c) Dhanbad No. II; (d) Hyderabad. Selection has been made for the post of Presiding Officer for the CGIT, Bangalore, but he is yet to join. Expeditious steps are taken to fill up vacant posts of Presiding Officers, after observing all necessary procedural formalities.

Statement

Number of cases pending with the various CGIT-cum-Labour Courts as on 31-5-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	Central Govt.	No. of *cases* pending	
1.	Asansol		348	
2.	Bangalore		468	
3.	Calcutta		180	As on 30-04-2000
4.	Chandigarh		1536	
5.	Dhanbad-I		1409	
6.	Dhanbad-II		1223	
7.	Jabalpur		1229	As on 01-01-2000
8.	Jaipur		124	
9.	Kanpur		658	
10.	Lucknow		55	
11.	Nagpur		52	As on 01-01-2000
12.	New Delhi		1078	
13.	Mumbai-I		177	
14.	Mumbai-II		191	
15.	Hyderabad -	Yet *to* start functioning	___	

Sl. No.	Name of the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Count	No. of cases pending
16.	Chennai - Started functioning w.e.f. 15-3-2000	—
17.	Bhubaneswar - Started. functioning w.e.f 5-6-2000	—
	TOTA L:	8728

Reduction of EPF Interest Rate

586. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to reduce the interest rate on E.P.F. deposits from 12 percent to 11 percent per annum;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Central Board of Trustees in its meeting on 25th April, 2000, recommended that the 12 percent rate per annum on monthly balances be continued;

(c) whether Government ere empowered to decide on the interest rate contrary to the recommendation of the CBT as per the provision of EPF and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 and the para 60(1) of the EPF scheme; and

(d) if not, the response of Government to this flagrant violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Under item 8 of Schedule II of the EPF.& MP Act, 1952 read with paragraph 60(1) of the EPF Scheme, rate of interest on EPF is required to be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, EPF. Accordingly, the CBT in its meeting held on 25.4.2000 made a recommendation to the Central Government for crediting interest in accounts of thc.EPF